



Swiss Confederation

Bern, 27 June 2011

Dear Ambassador,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the United States of America, it is a particular pleasure for me to convey to you, your Government and the American people the sincere congratulations of the Swiss Federal Council, together with our best wishes for your country's prosperity and well-being in the coming year.

Switzerland and the United States look back over a relationship of longstanding trust. Our two countries share a treasure trove of values which is hard to overestimate: Americans and the Swiss are both committed to democracy, personal freedoms, human rights and the rule of law. These similarities are the reason why the United States and Switzerland - two of the oldest federal democracies in the world - are often referred to as "sister republics".

I am particularly pleased to note that your Independence Day celebration 2011 is dedicated to a theme which unites our two countries: "America and Switzerland: Making Beautiful Music Together". Music is an excellent means of fostering friendship and empathy between peoples and nations. It contributes to mutual understanding and is an important complement to a steadfast political relationship. Your tribute to the Montreux Jazz Festival, to Claude Nobs and Quincy Jones is therefore a perfect symbol of the close ties that bind Switzerland and the United States.

In this spirit, let me take this opportunity to express my conviction that the bonds of friendship and co-operation which our two countries are fortunate to enjoy will become even stronger in the years to come.

Micheline Calmy-Rey
President of the Swiss Confederation

His Excellency
Mr. Donald S. Beyer
Ambassador of the United States of America
Berne